

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 IO-14 ISO-00 EURE-00 CCO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00

USIE-00 INRE-00 NEA-14 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-11 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03

SS-20 SAM-01 SAJ-01 ACDA-19 OMB-01 OPR-02 A-01 SY-04

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FM AMEMBASSY ANKARA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC FLASH 0000

INFO AMEMBASSY NICOSIA FLASH

AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY LONDON

USMISSION GENEVA

C O N F I D E N T I A L ANKARA 5948

GENEVA FOR BUFFUM

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MOPS, CY, TU, GR, PFOR

SUBJ: TURKISH REINFORCEMENTS

REF:NICOSIA 1766 (NOTAL)

1. IN RESPONSE TO REFTEL'S REQUEST FOR OUR "BEST GUESS"
CONCERNING TURKISH FORCES' SHORT-TERM OBJECTIVES ON CYPRUS,
WE OFFER FOLLOWING VIEWS:

2. TURKS HAVE BEEN ITCHING FOR LONG TIME TO ALTER BALANCE OF
AUTHORITY ON THE ISLAND MORE AFFIRMATIVELY IN THEIR FAVOR. THEY
WERE NOT PREPARED, HOWEVER, TO TAKE MILITARY INITIATIVE TO DO
THIS UNTIL, SURPRISINGLY, IOANNIDES' GOVERNMENT HANDED THEM
WHAT THEY CONSIDERED TO BE GOLDEN OPPORTUNITY. GOG-SPONSORED
CYPRUS COUP PRESENTED TURKS WITH FAIT ACCOMPLI WHICH ON ONE
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HAND THREATENED AN EVEN WEAKER TURKISH POSITION ON ISLAND,

AND ON OTHER GAVE THEM OPPORTUNITY (JUSTIFIED, THEY BELIEVE, IN WORLD PUBLIC OPINION) TO INTERVENE MILITARILY AND THEREBY SIGNIFICANTLY STRENGTHEN THEIR POSITION ON THE ISLAND. THEY OPTED FOR LATTER AND ARE NOW EXPLOITING SITUATION TO EXTENT THEY THINK TRAFFIC WILL BEAR.

3. WE REMAIN DEEPLY PUZZLED WHY FORMER GREEK GOVERNMENT PRECIPITATED CURRENT SITUATION UNDER CIRCUMSTANCES WHERE PROXIMIT OBVIOUSLY GAVE TO TURKS GREATER MILITARY -- AND MILITARY RE-SUPPLY AND REINFORCEMENT -- ADVANTAGES. WE THINK THAT, PARTICULARLY IN THE RE-SUPPLY AND REINFORCEMENT AREA, TURKS ARE CONTINUING TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THEIR MORE FAVORABLE GEOGRAPHIC POSITION, AND ARE LIKELY TO CONTINUE TO DO SO AT LEAST UNTIL MODALITIES OF CEASE-FIRE ARE MORE CLEARLY ESTABLISHED.

4. WE BELIEVE CURRENT TURKISH ACTIVITY IS AIMED NOT AT FUNDAMENTALLY ALTERING THE GEOPGRAPHIC POSITION THEY NOW HOLD ON ISLAND BUT RATHER AT STRENGTHENING IT, AND AT SAME TIME INCREASING THEIR BARGAINING CHIPS AT GENEVA.

5. HOWEVER, UNTIL FACTS, AND TURKISH MOTIVES, BEHIND LAST NIGHT'S EVENTS CONCERNING NICOSIA AIRPORT BECOME CLEARER, WE NOT IN POSITION TOMAKE DEFINITIVE JUDGMENT.
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